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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 14th July 1900.

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I.—Foreign Politics.

The *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July has the following:— HABLUL MATEEN, July 2nd, 1900.

Persian trade.

The cause of Persia's poverty is that she cannot, by trade, make good the loss which she sustains in buying articles of foreign manufacture. If matters go on as at present, she will become poorer and poorer. European goods are daily gaining popularity in Persia, whilst Persian goods are not valued in the European markets. The opium, which was recently exported from Persia to Hong-Kong, was discovered to contain 80 per cent. of foreign matter. It is a matter of regret that from selfish motives the Persian merchant is ruining the trade of his country.

2. A correspondent of the same paper writes as follows:— HABLUL MATEEN.

Persia's financial condition.

During the reign of the late Shah, it was the popular notion that the Persian Government was the richest Government in Asia. But on the accession of the present Shah to the throne, it became known that the State treasury was completely empty, and that the Government was liable for a debt of two millions. It also became known that owing to a slack administration, the revenues were in arrears by several millions. It is evident that the expenditure of the Persian Government exceeds its income. And in order to meet the deficit, it has, during the last three years, borrowed some six millions from English and other banks. Still the salaries of its officers are in arrears by one million.

3. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July writes as follows:— PRATIVASI, July 9th, 1900.

Rejoicing for British victories in South Africa.

Lord Nelson wished that he might die before people knew that he was moved either by victory or by defeat. But now in the land of Nelson there is frantic dancing in celebration of British victories in South Africa. The loyal Indian subjects also have been beside themselves with joy, and have made their offerings to goddess *Kali*. These devotees of *Kali* have evidently forgotten the song of Ramprasad, the prince of devotees, in which he said that the whole universe was the offspring of Mother *Kali*. You are at liberty to do whatever you like to express your joy at British victory: you may decorate your houses with flags; you may patronise the Great Eastern Hotel, but do not wound Hindu feeling by playing with the gods. There are Hindus who are really pained to see their gods and goddesses made instruments for subserving political interest. Degraded as we are, there are still some among us who piously, and with devotion, worship Mother *Kali*, and these people are really pained to see her worshipped in any other way. It is, moreover, to be considered whether we are justified by our religion, the religion of which we are so proud, in worshipping our gods with a selfish motive, with any other than a perfectly disinterested object. Do those who are proud of the Vedas and the Vedantas think it desirable to sacrifice goats in the Kalighat temple to celebrate their victory in a quarrel with their neighbours?

4. The same paper reproduces from the *Illustrated London News* the picture of Cronje's captivity in St. Helena. The picture shows Cronjé, his wife, and his Secretary in captivity. It is said that the British Government prohibited the publication of this picture, but a soldier hoodwinked Cronjé's guards and sent the picture of his place of confinement to the *Illustrated London News*. PRATIVASI.

Cronjé in captivity—a picture.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police*.

5. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 5th July says that Babu Ras Bihari Biswas, District Superintendent of Police, Khulna, suspended Sailesh Chandra Mitra, a writer-constable, on the 24th April last, for absence from parade. On the 16th May, however, the District Superintendent fined Sailesh Chandra Rs. 5 and ordered him to return to duty. The following is a copy of his order:— KHULNA, July 5th, 1900.

Resignation of four writer-constables in the Khulna district.

"W. C. Sailesh Chandra Mitra, who was placed under suspension on the 24th April, is released from suspension. He is fined Rs. 5 for absence from

parade and disobedience of orders. He will draw half-pay during the period of suspension, which will not count as service."

The District Superintendent also refused Sailesh Chandra permission to appear at the Sub-Inspectorship Examination, although he had been permitted to appear at the previous year's examination and had obtained the Magistrate's permission to appear again. Sailesh Chandra has resigned his appointment, as also two other writer-constables, Surendra Nath Banerji and Amar Nath Maitra. Writer-constable Joges Chandra Chakravarti also has sent in his letter of resignation. Everybody is filled with anxiety to see as many as four writer-constables, belonging to respectable families, resign their appointments within so short a time. Considering that the duties of writer-constables are not of a respectable nature, and their pay is only Rs. 7 a month, they should not be dealt with harshly if they commit faults. The Inspector-General of Police should make an enquiry into the cases of these writer-constables.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

BARISAL HITAISHI, July 4th, 1900.

6. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 4th July has the following:—

The *Hitavadi's* attack on Mr. Weston.

We fail to see what led the *Hitavadi* of the 29th June last to call our Magistrate, Mr. Weston, "stupid," "wanting in foresight," &c. (Report on Native Papers for 7th July, paragraph 27). We, on our part, do not find Mr. Weston either "stupid" or "wanting in foresight." It is but a short time since he came to Barisal, and he has already secured everybody's good opinion and acquired the reputation of an up-right and cool-headed officer. The Patuakhali case, in connection with which the *Hitavadi* wrote so sharply, has not yet been disposed of, nor has any obstacle been placed in the way of a just disposal of it. Mr. Weston transferred the case to his own file, because the accused stated in an affidavit that, owing to the existence of ill-feeling between the police and the mukhtars of Patuakhali, they might not get a fair trial there. Was it wrong or unlawful on Mr. Weston's part to transfer the case, under such circumstances? His transferring of the case rather shows that he is anxious to secure a fair and just trial. Our experienced contemporary has, therefore, done wrong by unnecessarily finding fault with Mr. Weston.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, July 4th, 1900.

7. The *Sri Sri Vishnupriya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th July has the following with reference to the Patuakhali case:—

The Patuakhali case.

The District Magistrate has transferred the case to his own file on the ground that the Subdivisional Officer is biassed against the accused. It appears that the Magistrate is a little biassed in favour of the police. If the case is tried in the district court, it will be almost impossible for the outraged girls to produce witnesses. This is the sowing season and the monsoon has burst. It will take some of the witnesses three or four days to reach the district court, and they will have to cross many large rivers. On these grounds Asenali moved the Magistrate to countermand his order for the transfer of the case or for its transfer to the file of another Deputy Magistrate. It is a regret that the District Magistrate has rejected the petition of this distressed man, who is now confined in jail. It is complained that he did not take the trouble to read the whole of the petition, or to listen to what the petitioner's pleader had to say. It is, however, hoped that the Magistrate will do justice in the case.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA.

8. The same paper thus comments on Dr. Gibbons's evidence in the Augustine case:—

Dr. Gibbons in the Augustine case.

Thanks to Dr. Gibbons's learning! It appears from his evidence that Sarat had long been suffering from heart disease, and that the valves of his arteries had lost their activity. Those, who have the least acquaintance with medical science, know that in a person attacked with such a disease, there is a serious obstacle in the circulation of the blood in the arteries, and dyspnœa and dropsy are the consequences. Dr Gibbons deposed that the deceased's heart weighed one pound and four ounces. Dr. Hughes Bennett speaks of a patient, William Ritchie, with a heart of the same weight, and suffering, like the deceased in this case, from eccentric hypertrophy of the cardiac ventricle. This man died in hospital and the *post mortem* examination disclosed his heart to be in a condition which the heart of

Sarat Chandra very closely resembled. But Ritchie had lost the power of locomotion and was suffering from dyspnœa, asthma, pain in the region of the heart, giddiness, insomnia, and dropsy.

Dr. Gibbons deposed that the body of the deceased was well nourished. Those who have the least acquaintance with Physiology will understand how worthless Dr. Gibbons's evidence is. It does not appear from his deposition that his knowledge of modern Medical Jurisprudence is very extensive. He deposed that the beating which the deceased had received did not cause his death, but that his death was caused by the excitement of the scuffle. Those who have read Dr. Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence know how the least force or violence may sometimes cause the rupture of the nervous ganglia, and thus bring about death. People, who caused death in this way, have been convicted of murder in England. But in this country when natives are killed by Europeans, excuses are not wanting to screen the offenders.

9. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th July has the following:— SANJIVANI, July 5th, 1900.

Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb's rumoured appointment to the Magistrateship of Malda.

It is rumoured that Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb, Deputy Magistrate, Howrah, will be appointed for three months to act as the Magistrate of Malda. It is good to promote deserving Deputy Magistrates in this way, and the appointment of the Kumar Bahadur to the Magistrateship of Malda will be the first appointment of the kind. But would it be just to overlook, in this case, the claims of those Deputy Magistrates who have a better claim to such promotion than the Kumar Bahadur?

10. The same paper says that Purna Chandra, a clerk in the Khulna Collectorate and complainant in the Lopez case, and his witness, Kailas Chandra, also a clerk in the same office, have been departmentally fined by Mr. Hamilton, Magistrate of Khulna. The second clerk in the Excise Department has also been dismissed by Mr. Hamilton on suspicion of having been implicated in the case. The Collectorate head clerk, too, has been transferred to Noakhali on a similar suspicion. The head clerk, who is an old man and would be entitled to pension two years hence, has been seriously inconvenienced by his transfer to an unhealthy place. SANJIVANI.

Departmental punishments in the Khulna case.

11. The *Nausha Punch* [Calcutta] of the 6th July gives a cartoon in which a European, standing by a table, is evidently directing two peons to drive out of his presence a good-looking young woman, who stands for the Urdu character. Two other peons are represented as bringing in an ugly-looking mehter woman, with a broom under her arm and a pail on her head, who stands for the Nagri character. NAUSHA PUNCH, July 6th, 1900.

A cartoon.

The letter-press runs as follows:—

Banishment for the good-looking Urdu, and prosperity for the ugly-looking Hindi. *Nausha Punch.*—Good men have died away and God's world has been taken possession of by an ass.

12. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th July understands that Sir John Woodburn has called for an explanation from Mr. Hamilton, District Magistrate of Khulna. It is not known how Mr. Hamilton has defended himself, but it is rumoured that he has strongly commented upon native papers. It is hoped that this rumour has no foundation. Mr. Hamilton's conduct is known to all, and the public ought to know what his explanation is. The Lieutenant-Governor will do well to make his explanation public. HITAVADI, July 6th, 1900.

The District Magistrate of Khulna.

13. A correspondent writes as follows in the same paper:— HITAVADI.

Civil Court peons.

The Civil Court peons are recruited from among low-class people, and are miserably paid, but the responsibilities with which they are entrusted are enormous, and their powers are almost unlimited. Their duty is to serve summonses, warrants, notices, decrees, and other processes. They often abuse their powers, and try to hoodwink the court. They have the power to injure the parties in a suit, and woe to the party who fails to humour them. He is sure to be harassed and injured.

In appointing these peons, the authorities do not call upon them to produce health certificates. The peons are, therefore, generally old, weak, and infirm

people. Many of them are physically unfit for the duties with the performance of which they are entrusted. They do not also wear any uniform, and it is very difficult to distinguish them from other people even in court time.

It is not expected that the attention of the higher authorities will be drawn to this matter. But much good may be done if the Judges and Munsifs keep a watch over them and try to reform their ways.

NAVA YUG, July 7th, 1900.

The promotion of two officers.

14. Referring to the appointment of Babu Rajendra Kumar Bose as Assistant Sessions Judge of Mymensingh and of Kumar Ramendra Krishna Deb as a Magistrate, the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th July says that, considering the ability of both these officers, no one will object to their promotion in supersession of the claims of senior men in the service. Rajendra Babu acquired the reputation of a specially good officer in the Subordinate Judicial Service, and Kumar Ramendra Krishna highly pleased his superior officers by the manner of discharging his duties. Sir John Woodburn is to be thanked for promoting these two officers in disregard of the seniority rule.

DACCA PRAKASH, July 8th, 1900.

The Subdivisional Officer of Narayanganj, in the Dacca district.

15. The *Dacca Prakash* Dacca] of the 8th July says that Mr. Howard, Subdivisional Officer of Narayanganj, in the Dacca district, has issued an order that no one not wearing a coat and pantaloons should enter his court with shoes on. Mr. Howard probably does not consider natives, dressed in *dhuti* and *chuddur*, as gentlemen. Nevertheless he should know that he has acted in an extremely indiscreet manner by passing the order. History says that one of those Englishmen, who established the British empire in India, finding that the lower classes in this country did not wear shoes, wanted to have every Indian shod. Mr. Howard, however, wants the Indians to leave off wearing shoes. Is this not strange?

PRABHAT, July 11th, 1900.

The Munda trial.

16. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 11th July thus comments on the trial of the Munda case:—

The Mundas are being tried and punished. Birsa Bhagwan has died in jail and Gaya Munda has been sentenced to death. But did the Magistrate, who tried the case, know the Mundari language? The Government awards Rs. 1,000 for proficiency in that language. Why was not the case tried by a Mundari-knowing Magistrate? There was a Munda outbreak in 1895-96. Mr. Grimley the then Commissioner, who enquired into the matter, came to know that the Mundas had not threatened to cut off the head of the Magistrate. They said that if Birsa was not released the authorities might cut off their heads. Mr. Grimley entrusted the trial of the case to Babu Krishna Kali Mukharji, a Mundari-knowing Deputy Magistrate. Babu Krishna Kali is still at Ranchi. Why was not he entrusted with the trial of the case? None but a Mundari-knowing Magistrate is likely to understand whether in the present case the Mundas actually revolted or only acted foolishly and ignorantly.

(d)—Education.

MIHIR-o-SUDHAKAR, July 6th, 1900.

The Superintendentship of the Chittagong Madrassa.

17. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th July will be glad to see a man knowing both English and Arabic appointed to the post of Superintendent of the Chittagong Madrassa, which has fallen vacant by the death of its late incumbent. English-knowing Maulvis are not rare nowadays, and no one can have any objection to the appointment of such a Maulvi to the post. The names of Maulvi Abu Nasar Muhammad Abid, M A., teacher in the English department of the Calcutta Madrassa, Maulvi Syed Abdur Rashid, of the Arabic department of the same Madrassa, and Maulvi Hafez Abdul Jalil of the Bengal Secretariat may be mentioned in this connection.

MIHIR-o-SUDHAKAR.

A grievance of the Madrassa College students.

18. A student of the College department of the Calcutta Madrassa writing in the same paper complains that though the annual examination of the students of the Madrassa College was finished along with that of the students of the Presidency College on the 18th June last, the authorities of the latter institution have not yet sent the marks secured by the Madrassa students to the Madrassa authorities. Madrassa students have not, therefore, yet got their

class promotion, nor is their attendance marked in the College register. They are thus losing in their percentage of attendance.

19. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July complains that the scholarships of the students of the Presidency College are not regularly paid. It is said that the scholarships have, in many instances, remained unpaid for five or six months. Many students have to depend upon these scholarships for the payment of College fees as well as for defraying their lodging and boarding expenses, and they are very much inconvenienced by the irregularity in the payment of their scholarships. It is hoped that the attention of the Principal will be drawn to this matter.

PRATIVASI, July 9th, 1900.

Irregularity in the payment of scholarships in the Presidency College.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

20. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 29th June complains of extortion by the contractors of the ferry ghâts, Dam Dama, Kaunia, Nispatganj, and Bamunikunda in the Rangpur district. Whether there is water in the river or not, everyone who crosses the river at one of those ghâts is made to pay four pice; and anyone refusing to pay is abused and detained till he pays. Babu Rajib Lochan was detained the other day at the Bamunikunda ferry ghât till he paid what was demanded, although he crossed the river on foot. He has brought a complaint against the ghât-keeper. Sometime ago a complaint of oppression at the Kaunia ferry ghât was brought to the notice of the District Board, but it is not known what steps the authorities took to check similar oppression in future.

RANGPUR VARTAVAHA, June 29th, 1900.

A ferry complaint.

Some of the ferry ghats in the district do not possess proper jetties, and this causes great inconvenience, specially to female passengers. On the ferry boats, there should be separate accommodation for male and female passengers. At the Sardubi ferry ghât, the writer once saw some male and female passengers huddled together underneath some carts with which the ferry boat was laden.

21. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd July says that the heavy rain of the 30th June last flooded the houses on both sides of the Ganginapur road and Tikapara road, in Mymensingh town. These places are flooded every rainy season for want of proper outlets for rain water. The canal to the south of the town, which drains away most of its rain water to the Brahmaputra, has silted up and cannot serve its purpose satisfactorily. The health of the town will be impaired if the municipality does not take steps to provide it with good drainage.

CHARU MIHIR, July 3rd, 1900.

The drainage of Mymensingh town.

22. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 4th July says that no cholera patient in Midnapore, however helpless his condition, likes to go to the local public dispensary for treatment. Recently some such patients were advised to go there, but refused to do so, and died almost without any medical help. This unwillingness of cholera patients to go to the dispensary is due to a belief that they would not be properly cared for and would be sure to die. It is said that at the dispensary cholera patients are left without any attendant, and even their evacuations are not removed. As for medicines, it is said that something, once administered by the compounder, is the first and the last medicine which a cholera patient gets. The authorities ought to enquire if the public belief is correct. If it turns out to be so, matters ought to be improved at once.

MEDINI BANDHAV, July 4th, 1900.

The Midnapore public dispensary.

23. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 7th July says that Babu Jogendro Nath Srimani, a Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta, asked the Chairman of the Corporation a question regarding the uncleanliness of the northern division of the town. Mr. Bright replied that the Commissioner's statement was untrue, that he had kept a strict eye on the conservancy of the northern division, and that the conservancy arrangement of that division was better than that of any other quarter of the town. The writer, however, knows from personal experience that the municipal authorities pay little

NAVA YUG, July 7th, 1900.

The conservancy of the northern division of Calcutta.

attention to the cleanliness of the northern division. The lanes on both sides of Shambazar Street, for instance, always remain in such a filthy condition that one cannot pass along them without stopping one's nose. The Chairman may not have passed along these in his time of inspection.

PRABHAT, July 11th, 1900.

Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore as a Municipal Commissioner.

24. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 11th July has the following:—

We have received the following letter from Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore:—

TAGORE CASTLE,
The 2nd July 1900.

"The Maharaj-Kumar Tagore, Municipal Commissioner for Ward No. III, will have great pleasure in receiving at the Castle any representation that you may desire to place before him in regard to municipal matters on Sundays at 12 noon."

Maharaj-Kumar Pradyot Kumar Tagore is an inexperienced young man. Who has advised him to make himself ridiculous in this way? Not long ago, candidates for Municipal Commissionerships had to beg for votes from door to door. After the passing of the new Municipal Act no Commissioner has been elected from Ward No. III. If the rate-payers had elected a Commissioner, they would not certainly have elected the Maharaj-Kumar. Moreover, is a Municipal Commissioner a Viceroy that people should go to his house at a fixed hour to represent their grievances? If the Maharaj-Kumar had any sympathy with us, he would have refused the Commissionership. He is a nominee of the Government. Why should he try to sit on two stools?

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

KHULNA, July 5th, 1900.

Railway complaints.

25. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 5th July makes the following complaints against the management of the Bengal Central Railway:—

(1) The fares on this line are heavier than those on other railways.

(2) Sufficient second-class accommodation is not provided in each train.

(3) The discontinuance of the practice of placing screens before the lamps in second-class carriages is causing great inconvenience to passengers.

(4) All passengers, whether coming from Calcutta and the places near it or not, are subjected to plague examination, and are for that purpose treated as if they were criminals, being detained within spaces surrounded by strong ropes. It is quite inexplicable why the lady doctor or nurse at Khulna, whose duty ought to be to examine only female passengers, examines male passengers also.

SANJAY, July 6th, 1900.

Railway complaints and suggestions.

26. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 6th July makes the following representations to the authorities of the Rajbari-Faridpur Railway:—

(1) Want of separate accommodation for female passengers in the trains on this line causes serious inconvenience to them. One third class and one intermediate class carriage in each train should be set apart for females.

(2) Want of a platform at the Faridpur station causes the greatest difficulty, particularly to female passengers, in getting into, and alighting from, carriages.

(3) The station-room at Faridpur being roofed with corrugated-iron, becomes intolerably hot in the summer. The authorities should, therefore, have it provided with a *punkha*.

(4) It would be doing the people of Faridpur a service, without inflicting loss on the railway administration, to extend the line, *viâ* Bhanga, up to Madaripur. The passenger and goods traffic will bring sufficient income to the administration to recoup it for the additional expenditure that would be incurred. A special train, besides the morning and evening trains, would be a boon to those who wish to come to Calcutta by the Chittagong Express. Faridpur being the head-quarters of the district is a more suitable place for a principal station than Goalundo, which is not only a subdivisional town, but is every rainy season threatened by the river.

27. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th July has the following :— HITAVADI, July 6th, 1900.

The grievances of native railway passengers.

It is a regret that the authorities are indifferent to the inconveniences of railway passengers. It cannot be said to be a satisfactory arrangement that native railway passengers must suffer so much inconvenience even after paying for their tickets. It goes without saying that the railway authorities are failing in their duty by not paying any attention to the convenience of their passengers. Passengers are oppressed and ill-treated at every step, and their inconveniences and grievances are ignored. Does all this reflect credit on the authorities?

Railway journey is becoming more and more inconvenient to native passengers. The foremost grievance of a native railway passenger is that he is not supplied with good drinking water during the journey, and that the native food available at railway stations is not good. The suffering of railway passengers, from the absence of the supply of drinking water is better felt than described. With the exception of the East Indian Railway, no other railway pays proper attention to the supply of drinking water to passengers. At a railway station the cry for drinking water is always a cry in the wilderness. As for food, the less said regarding it, the better. The arrangements for catering to European passengers are excellent. But native passengers, who have a prejudice against dining in European hotels, are undone. No good native food is vended at the stations. And why? Trains stop at stations where there are Kellner's hotels for the dinner and breakfast time. Telegrams ordering dinner or breakfast have not to be paid for. Let a passenger complain of the badness of the food supplied in these hotels and a hue and cry is raised. But as for catering to native passengers, the arrangements are extremely unsatisfactory. Good native food in not available at the stations, Kellner is supplied with good house accommodation, but the rent of the native sweetmeat stalls is being continually enhanced. At many stations there are no stalls at all. Passengers formerly used to provide themselves with sweetmeats at the Burdwan Railway station, but they have now to provide themselves with food before they start on their journey. The quality of the sweetmeats sold at the Burdwan station is gradually deteriorating, while their price is rising. This would not have been the case if some consideration had been shown to the sweatmeat vendor. Native passengers are far more numerous than European passengers, and it is extremely unjust and unwise that the inconveniences of one class of passengers should be ignored, while the convenience of another class of passengers should be promoted at the cost of the railways.

There is another grievance. There are closets in the first and second class carriages on the East Indian Railway, but not in the intermediate and third class carriages. If such closets can be provided in all classes of carriages on the Great Indian Peninsular and the Punjab Railways, one fails to understand why they cannot be provided on the East Indian Railway also. After a good deal of agitation, the Government has provided closets in third class female compartments, but no closets have been provided in intermediate class female compartments.

Colonel Gardiner, the late Agent of the East Indian Railway, used to take pains to promote the convenience of native passengers, and complaints made by railway passengers used to be enquired into during his time. But those days are gone! How complaints made by railway passengers are treated in these days will appear from the following letter :—

CHANDERNAGORE,
The 8th June 1900.

To

W. A. DRING, ESQ.

General Traffic Manager,
East Indian Railway.

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge your letter No. 2288G., and thank you for your readiness to re-investigate the matter in my presence.

I am surprised to learn, however, that your first enquiry has not borne out my complaint. Of course, it would be rash for me to say that the officer who was charged with the enquiry made a mere perfunctory investigation, but when the staff of the Tarakeswar Station, specially the Assistant Station Master, have confessed their guilt to more than one person and have, moreover, apologised to me through a third party, I cannot but have a doubt about the seriousness of the first investigation.

I request you to note the following points:—

A gentleman, unless seriously provoked, will not go the length of formally laying a charge against anybody. He would not have done so on any account if he could not substantiate his charge.

What interest have I, an occasional traveller to Tarakeswar, to complain against the staff, if the grounds of my complaint were not just and reasonable ?

A consideration of these points will help you in the proper conduct of the enquiry.

But I come to more direct proofs. On the Queen's Birthday some employés of the Hooghly Collectorate went to Tarakeswar, when the station staff, specially the Assistant Station Master, confessed their guilt to them, and requested them to plead on their behalf and induce me not to press the charge. If you would kindly refer to Babu Kali Charan Bhar, Tauzi-navis of the Hooghly Collectorate, you may have fuller details.

As for my presence before you, I can only say that I am always at your disposal between the hours of 1 and 4 P. M. If you would fix the day, I shall be much obliged.

Yours truly,

ASHTOSH DAS.

It is clear from the above that the railway employés complained against have apologised to the complainant. Is it not, then, strange that the enquiry instituted by the authorities has failed to prove the complaint? Such a travesty of enquiry was never made during the time of Colonel Gardiner.

So much for the East Indian Railway. Here are two letters to show how enquiries are conducted by the authorities of another railway :—

First letter.

No. 71—1900-30-3T.

Bengal Central Railway.

159, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta,
The 4th April 1900.

BABU HIRA LAL MAJUMDAR,
P. O. PANJIA (JESSORE).

DEAR SIR,

COMPLAINT against the guard of No. 1, Up, Bengal Central Railway train, of 29th March 1900. I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 1st instant, and in reply to state that the matter will be duly enquired into.

Yours faithfully,

F. C. LITTLE,
Assistant Traffic Superintendent.

Second letter.

No. $\frac{71—1300T.}{4212}$.

The 31st May 1900.

DEAR SIR,

IN continuation of my No. 1313, of 4th April 1900, I beg to state that I deputed my Traffic Inspector to enquire into this matter, and he informs me that he asked you by letter to be present with your witnesses at Sealdah to

confront the staff at his enquiry, but you did not put in the appearance. I regret you did not do so as you have by this act prevented my going any further into the matter.

Yours faithfully,

(Signature unintelligible.)

Assistant Traffic Superintendent.

Babu Hira Lal Majumdar complained against a guard. He is told nothing—informed of nothing,—but is at once informed that his absence from the place of enquiry has led to the giving up of the enquiry. Who fixed the date of enquiry and when was the date fixed? Was the complainant informed of the date and place of enquiry?

28. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th July writes as follows:— PRATIVASI, July 9th, 1900.

A complaint against the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Some time ago a European volunteer stabbed one Bhut Nath Ghosh, a milkman, at the Sealdah station. Bhut Nath was taken to the hospital profusely bleeding and was confined to bed for a month. The complainant's version of the occurrence was this: He was trying to get into a third class compartment. There were four passengers in that compartment who were trying to prevent him from entering it. The noise thus created annoyed a European, who was a first-class passenger, and he came out and stabbed him. The Railway police, who enquired into the case, believed the complainant's version and reported against one Mr. Parker. The railway authorities, however, were not of the same opinion as the police. They let off Mr. Parker, but have not yet been able to detect the culprit. Was the culprit a stranger to the railway authorities? The crime was committed in broad daylight. Why was not the offender arrested then and there? If the culprit were not connected with the railway, why was he so anxious to punish Bhut Nath for the noise he was creating? The public will be led to think that the railway authorities made no attempt to detect the offender.

(h)—General.

29. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 29th June makes the following complaints against the post office:— RANGPUR VARTAVAHA, June 29th, 1900.

Postal complaints.

1. In the villages postal peons have to take receipts for every postal article which they deliver. But they do not always deliver such articles to the addressees, but content themselves with delivering them to and taking receipts from persons acquainted with, or living in the same village as the addressees. Thus, our paper is not regularly received by subscribers in Guratipara and other villages under the Rangpur post office. No one ever cares to enquire if the receipts, which are thus taken, are genuine. Some time ago we suggested that Inspectors should enquire about the proper delivery of letters, &c. But our advice has produced no good. It would be better to abolish the post of Inspectors, because they are of no service to the Postal Department. A portion of the money which would be saved by such abolition may be utilised in giving rewards to the peons and post-masters who do their work well. This will lead to a more satisfactory working of the department than at present. The Superintendents should spend most of their time in inspecting work in the mufassal, instead of spending it at head-quarters.

2. Proper receipts are not given by the post office for unregistered value-payable articles. This gives post-masters opportunities for totally denying the receipt of such articles or substituting for the contents of a value-payable parcel something it did not contain. The post office should make it incumbent on post-masters to give a proper receipt for every value-payable parcel.

3. Letters, &c., the postage of which turns out to be insufficient, are charged for at the same rate as bearing letters, &c. This is unjust. No one knowingly sends an insufficiently-paid article, and the addressee should be made to pay only the difference between the proper postage and the postage paid.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, July 4th, 1900.

30. The *Sri Sri Vishnupria-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 4th July has the following:—

The office of Comptroller of Post Office, Nagpur.

In reply to the petition of the clerks of the office of the Comptroller of Postal Accounts, the Comptroller-General informed them on behalf of the Viceroy that the Deputy Comptroller-General would inspect the Nagpur office during the hottest part of the summer. But this decision has apparently been modified, and it has been notified that the Deputy Comptroller-General will inspect the office in the first week of July. Why is this so? Why has the Viceroy's order been modified in this way? If the Deputy Comptroller-General had paid the office a visit in June he would not have had to make an office inspection in order to understand how great was the suffering of the poor clerks. He would have found even the Bengali clerks wearing *puggrees* to protect their heads from the abnormal heat. He would have found how it was possible for even a strong clerk to die from the suffocating heat of the season. He would have found the clerks working from six in the morning to nine in the evening. The July rains have cooled down the atmosphere, and the Deputy Comptroller-General will not be able to form an idea of the suffering of the poor clerks. It is hoped, however, that the Deputy Comptroller-General will examine clerks drawing less than Rs. 500 a month. High-paid officers will not sympathise with the poor clerks.

Famine has broken out in the Central Provinces, and famine prices prevail in Nagpur. Rice is selling at Rs. 5-8-0 to Rs. 6-8-0 per maund. There are no vegetables and potato is selling at 7 annas per seer. How are the poor clerks to make two ends meet under such circumstances? As for office work, it is being very perfunctorily done. Progress reports are up to date, but there are mistakes and blunders in the work done. Many clerks are off to Calcutta and many more are ill. The office is undermanned and the clerks are being overworked. They have not the time to check vouchers. The office superintendents, whip in hand, made the clerks work at night to prepare the annual statement of the Savings Bank. The statement is prepared, but the ledger bristles with mistakes. Is not the Government responsible to the public for these mistakes? The depositors as well as the Government have suffered loss on this account. If there is a discrepancy of a pice in the treasury accounts, the accountant is punished. But the Government is not moved by the loss, which it has incurred on account of the inefficiency of the Deputy Comptroller. The Deputy Comptroller-General will do well to examine the letters from post offices pointing out mistakes in the annual Savings Bank statement. He should also enquire how many clerks have been forced by the Deputy Comptroller's abuse to resign. He should also call for the letter which the Deputy Comptroller wrote to the Civil Surgeon, instructing him not to give certificates even to clerks who were really ill, as he was determined not to grant leave to any clerk intending to go to Calcutta.

SANJIVANI, July 5th, 1900.

31. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th July writes as follows:—

An appointment in the Bengal Secretariat.

A certain Eurasian was employed as a clerk in the Military Department on a pay of Rs. 50. For some unknown qualification which he possessed, he was translated to a post of Rs. 125 in the Chief Secretary's Department in the Bengal Secretariat, in supersession of the claims of clerks in lower posts in that office. But the Eurasian found himself wanting in the qualification necessary to discharge the duties of his post and has reverted to his former appointment in the Military Department. It is rumoured that another Eurasian will be brought to fill up the vacancy in the Secretariat. Is it right to show so much favour to Eurasians in disregard of the claims of more competent men employed in the office, and who got their employments on the result of a competitive examination? It is neither just nor good for the public service to do this.

SANJAY, July 6th, 1900.

32. The *Sanjay* [Faridpur] of the 6th July has heard it complained that

A postal complaint.

postage stamps, &c., are not sold at the Bhanga post office in the Faridpur district between the hours of 10 A.M. to 3 P.M., because the postmaster and all his peons are in the habit of taking a long midday nap after their morning meal.

33. The trial of the Mundas, writes the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th July, is over, and Gaya Munda has been hanged. The Munda difficulty has been settled, the Munda outbreak has been quelled, and the uncivilised Mundas have been punished. But will the officials enquire how far the Munda's respect for British justice has been increased?

HITAVADI, July 6th, 1900.

The Munda affair.

34. The same paper is sorry to understand that a worthless and insignificant Calcutta newspaper is going to be prosecuted for defamation, at the instance of the Government. This paper had been abusing all classes of people, high and low, and the silence of the abused emboldened it. Lately a Police Inspector of Baranagore was abused in its columns, and, with the permission of the Government, the editor has been prosecuted in the Court of the Joint-Magistrate of Alipore. The writer will be glad to see the paper let off. Why should the lion desire the destruction of a mole?

HITAVADI.

Government sanctioning the prosecution of a Calcutta native paper.

35. The same paper writes as follows:—

HITAVADI.

Target-practice at Dum-Dum.

We are glad to learn that since the accidental death from gun-shot of one Saiyad Ali, son of Bachhatulla Shaikh of Narayanpur, near Dum-Dum, the authorities are taking steps to prevent such accidental deaths in future. A survey is being made of Narayanpur and the adjoining fields, and it is said that the Government will acquire about 500 *bighas* of land for the purpose of extending the ground for target-practice at Dum-Dum. The village Kadihati has been surveyed twice or thrice, but the Government, it is said, is not going to incur the cost of acquiring it.

It will be a great relief to the residents of Kadihati if bullets from the guns of soldiers engaged in target-practice are prevented from straying into their village. They have long been living in constant fear and anxiety, like one that has a serpent for his fellow-lodger. The authorities are best able to judge whether the acquisition of the land which is being surveyed will serve their purpose. It will, of course, make Narayanpur safe, but Kadihati will not be safe if the face of the butt or target is not turned. It is hoped that the authorities will not lose sight of this point.

While on this subject, we wish to bring another fact to the notice of the Government. We thought that the Government would take the initiative in the matter, but we have been disappointed. Is not poor Bachhatulla, whose son was accidentally killed by a stray bullet, entitled to compensation? He depended a good deal upon his son for the cultivation of his land, and he is quite helpless and hopeless now that that son has been taken away from him. The hopelessness of his condition is better felt than described. It is hoped that our kindhearted Lieutenant-Governor will take pity on this poor man and pay him something in his present hopelessly straitened circumstances.

36. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th July says that a post of Rs. 125 having fallen vacant in the Bengal Secretariat, many experienced M.A.'s, among others applied for it. But the Under-Secretary, who was to fill up the post, rejected their applications and gave it to a Eurasian assistant from the Military Department, who used to get only Rs. 50 there. The Under-Secretary, it is said, has since had to eat the humble pie, as his Eurasian assistant has failed to understand his work and fled away from his new appointment. The favour of an office master may promote a *chaprasi* to a superintendentship, but cannot give him the qualifications required for a due discharge of duty.

BANGAVASI, July 7th, 1900.

An appointment in the Bengal Secretariat.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

37. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 11th July writes as follows with reference to the nomination of Nawab Mahammad Haiyat Khan to the Supreme Legislative Council:—

PRABHAT, July 11th, 1900.

Nawab Mahammad Haiyat Khan, a new member of the Supreme Legislative Council.

The Council is full of Punjabi members. Messrs. Tupper and Fanshaw were lately nominated in addition to Sir Hurnam Singh and the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. Now comes the Nawab Saheb. A Sikh or a Punjabi Hindu member, and the

list will be complete. We know all about the Nawab Saheb, and we can assure the Government that he is not the man to protest against anything said or done by it. He is a pandit without possessing any learning and a Judge without possessing any legal knowledge. He will now be a member of the Legislative Conncil without knowing English.

V.—Prospects of the crops and condition of the people.

Sanjivani, July 5th, 1900.

Government in the famine.

38. Referring to Lord Curzon's statement that it is impossible for Government to give relief to the old, the crippled, the sick and the dying and to children, orphans and poor but respectable men and women, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th July writes as follows:—

We fail to see the reason why Lord Curzon considers it impossible for Government to give relief to these helpless classes. Will Government give no relief except to those who can work? Does not His Excellency consider it one of the duties of the Government to save the lives of old or crippled men and of children who cannot labour and of those destitute, but respectable men and women who would rather die of starvation than disgrace themselves by working on Government relief operations? If not, why should the people of England consider it their duty to help such people? In Europe and America, people are already levelling jokes at England. The British Government is spending millions of money to destroy the Boers; the English people are contributing enormous sums of money to secure the comfort and happiness of wounded soldiers; large sums have been subscribed for the supply of small luxuries like cigars and tobacco to the soldiers on the battle-field. But not a pice has been given from the Imperial Exchequer to save the life of the Indian dying from starvation. The English people have certainly lost the noble quality of charity in their present craze for war. Is it not strange that whilst Germany and America have been contributing to the Indian famine fund, the Government in England has not only not thought fit to contribute a cowrie for that purpose, but is holding out the assurance that the resources of the Government of India are not yet exhausted, and that that Government would be itself able to save the lives of the Indian people? Why is the Government of India begging, if it needs no help from the Imperial Exchequer? It is Lord George Hamilton's conduct which is preventing the people of England from fully responding to Lord Curzon's appeal for money.

Hitavadi, July 6th, 1900.

Lord Curzon in the famine.

39. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 6th July has the following:—

The dreadful figure of famine has alarmed everybody. A perusal of Lord Curzon's letter to the Lord Mayor of London produces in the mind a combined feeling of gratitude to the Viceroy and sorrow for the sufferers. His Excellency has described in vivid and vigorous language how in her present distress India stands as a beggar at the door of America, Germany, Turkey, China, and all other Powers. The fact that the Viceroy is at this moment begging the Lord Mayor for alms on behalf of the Indian people is one that cannot fail to bring grateful tears to the eye. Government is trying its utmost to grant relief to the starving people, but still finds it necessary to appeal to outsiders for help.

The spectacle of thousands of people dying from starvation and from disease caused by starvation is as dreadful as it is discreditable to the administration. Government is now straining every nerve to relieve the sufferings of the famished population by supplying their wants and remitting revenue. But will there be no enquiry as to who is responsible for the present state of things, or as to the reason why the failure of one crop leads to such widespread distress? Once look at India. Hungry men and women in a state of emaciation and reduced to skeletons, crying in a weak and plaintive voice for food and gradually falling down dead; the emaciated baby sucking in vain the dried up breasts of the mother who has just died and screaming in hunger; human beings quarrelling with dogs and jackals and with crows and vultures in the expectation of feasting on the putrid carcasses of animals; the country strewn with dead bodies of men and women, the courtyard converted into a cremation ground; the mother selling her baby for a trifle, husband deserting wife

and mother abandoning offspring. Not to speak of fruits and bulbs, even the leaves of trees are being eagerly sought for food. This is no imaginary picture drawn by the Indians, but a description of the real state of things as given by foreigners. Cottages have been converted into tombs, smiling corn fields have assumed the appearance of burning grounds, and the air is surcharged and defiled with a putrid smell. Did Government do anything in time to prevent all this?

One cannot help indulging in plain speaking at this time of distress, though such plain speaking is very likely to be disagreeable. The present state of things is the inevitable result of the extravagant and costly system of administration which obtains in the country. Are the Indians unable to understand that Government has more than once broken its promise, has not done what it promised to do, and has disregarded its pledges after having raised false expectations in their minds? In imposing the famine tax Government distinctly said that the proceeds of the tax would be expended only on famine relief and for no other purpose. It said:—"The resolution which Government has proclaimed will be faithfully carried out, and the proceeds of these taxes will be expended for the purpose of providing what I have called an insurance against famine and for no other purpose whatsoever." The proceeds of the tax regarding which assurances like those were given by Lord Lytton and his Finance Minister were not, however, reserved for famine relief except during the administration of Lord Ripon. The late Mr. Bradlaugh clearly pointed this out in Parliament and showed that the Famine Insurance Fund had been spent on the construction of palaces and the prosecution of wars of annexation while the people were dying from starvation. Government made many attempts to deny the existence of the fund, but was at length obliged to disgorge the money that it had diverted to purposes other than famine relief. Arrangements were now made to secure a legitimate expenditure of the Famine Fund, but this state of things did not last long, and at the earliest opportunity the fund was drawn upon to recoup the Exchequer for the loss on exchange.

Lord Curzon might well have at this time of financial embarrassment abolished the exchange compensation allowance. If we had possessed a command of vigorous language like that of which Lord Curzon is a master, we would have addressed His Excellency in these words:—My Lord, now that you have appealed for outside help it behoves you at the same time to put a stop to all wasteful expenditure of money by your own Government, and before you beg the Lord Mayor for alms, you should abolish the grant of the exchange compensation allowance—and thereby prevent a deliberate misuse of public money, the heart's blood of the Indians.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

40. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 4th July has the following:— PRABHAT, July 4th, 1900.

Anglo-Indian ascendency.

In a previous article we called attention to the fact that in ancient India, as appears from old Sanskrit poems and dramas, the king's brother-in-law was regarded as one of the evils that afflicted the State. Reckless beyond measure, these men went about parading before the people with *zuberdust*, the authority and influence with which their connection with the royal family invested them.

We now see that like the thorny plant the king's brothers-in-law are immortal in this world. At all times and in some form or another they sprout up and develop thorns to the great misfortune of the people. They want to apply the whip anywhere and everywhere and to extort *salaams*, and the beating of "tom-tom" on the occasion of native weddings makes them so angry that they want to easily and summarily stop the sound by shooting those that make it.

Now-a-days an all pervading something called Government fills the throne in the place of the king. The number of the king's brothers in-law has therefore increased. These men, so proud of their relationship with the ruler, had formerly no newspaper to advocate their interests. They have now got even that. For some time past we have been troubled with a fear and the fear has gone on increasing that the king's brothers-in-law may grow more numerous and powerful than the king, and we have been afraid lest like the small head of

a comet the king should find himself overpowered and obscured by his own tail. We saw during the Ilbert Bill agitation that the king's relations were more powerful than the king himself, the bamboo twigs, that is to say, were harder and stiffer than the bamboo itself.

During the administration of Lord Lansdowne and more particularly of Lord Elgin we were unable to realise the independent existence of the king, and it seemed to us as if the newspapers of the king's brothers-in-law had assumed the royal sceptre. The threatening and roaring, the chastising and blustering of those days were not like those of a king and seemed to express at one and the same time fear and defiance, cowardice and despotism. Nor were they marked by the large heartedness and self-restraint, the gravity and forbearance which characterise the action and utterances of a powerful sovereign. In those days the heavy responsibility attaching to the royal sceptre seemed suddenly to disappear and that emblem of sovereign power became as light, sharp, scurrilous, and stained with and steeped in the ink of animosity as were the steel-pens wielded by the editors of the *Englishman* and the *Times of India*. Even the speeches which were in those days delivered in the Indian Legislative Council and elsewhere by highly placed officers like Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, read like editorials from those newspapers published in a wrong place. Indeed, no other person had ever succeeded in so short a time in so ably and completely bewildering and upsetting the mind of the whole Indian population as the late Viceroy.

What we feared and doubted at that time was whether India was being then protected by the Government of the English sovereign or assailed by the rule of the non-official English community. At one time the English community in India was small and limited, and the officials of those days kept a sharp eye on it. That small community has at the present time, in the persons of its sons, wives, daughters and sons in-law, spread over the whole of India. Naturally the connection of these men with the country is one of self interest and their connection with their own people one in which they find their whole delight. There is no harm in that. Nor should there be any objection to the fact that by constantly moving within their own social groove, within the limits, that is, of their own tennis grounds, theatres and dinner halls, the English are gradually keeping the Indians at an increased distance. But what alarms us is that, like a gigantic creeper, the thousand and one interests of the Anglo-Indian community are entangling the Indian administration in its intertwining folds and meshes.

The more numerous a community will grow, the more powerful and pervading will become the ideas and prejudices cherished by it as a community. During the early years of British rule in this country English officials came into direct contact with the Indians, with the result that personal tastes and predilections made some Englishmen enemies of India and some her friends. In those days the appearance in this country of men like David Hare was possible. In those days learned scholars like Mr. Cowell respectfully approached the Indian pandits. Not many years ago when we were boys, we knew Dr. Baillie, a true and sincere and kindhearted friend of the natives like whom we can never expect to find among the present European doctors in the country.

That is because Englishmen now come not to India, but to the Anglo-Indian community. Who can fully protect and save himself from the contagion of the language, the manners and customs and the prejudices which prevail in that community? Not only does this vast and powerful community, which alone in a strange land makes the bolding of pleasant social gatherings possible, keep the new arrival aloof and away from India, but teaches him to look upon her with reckless contempt. The moment the Englishman lands in the country he finds a number of stock ideas and expressions placed at his disposal, and from that time allows himself and his family and friends to be swayed in their daily life by the powerful prejudices which dominate the European community in India. Where does he come in contact with the heart of greater India, with her pleasures and sorrows? Does he find them in the one or two clay models made by the Anglo-Indian humourist and deposited by him in the museum of the Anglo-Indian community?

Considering the gradual increase, as a result of the operation of natural laws, of the Anglo-Indian community, both in number and power, the existence

of an independent sovereign power, clearly different and distinct from that community, is absolutely necessary to our safety. We fear a Government of the country and its people by this thousand-handed Contempt.

We have been re-assured by the noble independence which is a characteristic of the present Viceroy. It matters little whether or no the public measures of Lord Curzon's administration are all of them, without exception, agreeable to us, but it will be considered a signal gain to the subject-people and a great glory of the sovereign, if His Excellency can, by an exercise of the independent sovereign power, see his way to save the Indian throne which has been gradually sinking and disappearing in the sea of Anglo-Indian ascendency and to establish it on the basis of independence which appertains to sovereignty.

41. The same paper writes as follows:— PRABHAT. July 4th, 1900.

The effect of the Augustine case on the native community.

Whatever be the result of Augustine's trial, what we feared from the beginning is probably going to happen. In the Police Court, the other day, a large number of Eurasians, who had assembled to express joy, treated the Bengalis scornfully; and Eurasians now-a-days treat the Bengalis in the same manner in tram cars. All this is the result of the hue and cry that has been raised over the case by the native community. So long the natives had to fear Europeans and European soldiers only. Are they henceforward to live in dread of the Eurasians too? The black figure of a Eurasian seen by night in some narrow lane does, it is true, send a thrill through one's heart, but are black Eurasians to be feared in broad daylight also? The Bengali has himself brought this danger to his door. Everybody who wears a hat considers himself a *saheb*. But the mere wearing of a hat does not make a man a *saheb*. Men of Augustine's community are called *topases* in Bombay, and nobody fears a *topas's* hat there. Are the Bengalis so great cowards that they will fear a *topas?* From our personal experience of different parts of India, we know that Bengalis possess much more courage than many other peoples. Supremacy should on no account, therefore, be accorded to black Eurasians, and should be disputed even with white Eurasians. The honour of a man is in his own keeping. If we do not become frightened at seeing a Eurasian, Eurasians can commit no oppression on us. Sarat Chandra has suffered what fate had kept in store for him; but it is a consolation that he did not die without beating Augustine. English education teaches that you must strike a Eurasian before the latter has an opportunity of striking you. That is the only way of putting a stop to such quarrels.

42. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 5th July quotes from Lord Curzon's letter to the Lord Mayor of London and remarks as follows:— SANJIVANI, July 5th, 1900.

Lord Curzon's estimate of the Indian people.

We are glad to hear from Lord Curzon himself the true and frank statement that the people of India do not enjoy happiness even in their good times. That His Excellency has realised the poverty of the Indian people is our great good fortune. We are also delighted to hear that His Lordship considers the Indians subjects of Her Majesty in the same sense as the English people. Many Englishmen look down upon us as coolies; others treat us with contempt on account of our black skin; others, again, refuse to recognise us as human beings and deride us as monkeys or other creatures of the same order. Lord Curzon has honoured us by calling us creatures of the same order as Englishmen. We are accustomed to hear from Englishmen that they are the conquerors and we are the conquered; that they are the kings and we are their subjects; that they are the rulers and we are the ruled, and so on. The language used by Lord Curzon in his letter is, however, very different. From his high and dignified seat on the throne as Her Majesty's representative he has said: "The Indian is as much a subject of Her Majesty as I am." There is no touch of pride or contempt in his letter. Lord Curzon's words have, indeed, filled us with the deepest respect for, and devotion to, him.

43. The *Samiran-o-Viswadut* [Calcutta] of the 7th July has the following:— SAMIRAN-O-VISWADUT, July 7th, 1900.

The rulers hating the ruled in India.

The English are our conquerors and we are the conquered people. It cannot be expected that the relations between the conquerors and the conquered should be perfectly good

and sweet. It may be the law of nature that the conquered should always be trampled upon by the conquerors. There should be nothing to regret in this.

But it cannot be the law of nature that the conquerors and the conquered should always live a cat-and-dog life, the life, to use a Bengali phrase, of a serpent and a mongoose, a life, that is, of eternal hatred and animosity. There is a limit to everything. But in the British empire, the conduct of the conquerors towards the conquered seems to have lately overstepped all natural limits.

The history of the conquest of India is not like the history of the conquest of other countries. The history of the conquest of Bengal stands by itself; it is a strange history. In Bengal, the people deposed their Musalman sovereign and placed English merchants on his throne. It is they who shed their blood to defend, maintain, and consolidate British rule in India. The history of the British conquest of Bengal somewhat resembles the history of the Saxon conquest of Britain. In both cases the people invited the conquerors to their country. But the conquest of Bengal has no other parallel in history. So the difference between the conquerors and the conquered cannot be fully maintained in Bengal. The rulers, the ruling nation, and their mixed progeny ought to take this fact into their consideration.

India has *not* been conquered by the sword, and the policy that the country which has been won by the sword should be ruled by the sword should by all means be given up. Has India been conquered by the British sword and the British sword alone? Is it not true that the Indian sword of one province has been used in conquering another province? Is it not true that India was conquered by India, and that she offered herself at the feet of England? The Indian people are naturally led to think that their conquerors may somewhat tone down the harshness of their conduct without prejudicially affecting the efficiency of their rule.

But we are hoping against hope. There is no room for hope, and hope is gradually yielding place to fear. The proverbial cosmopolitanism of the British nation is not flourishing on Indian soil. English apples can be grown on the snow-crested hills of India. But the Indian climate has proved prejudicial to the growth of British large-mindedness and large-heartedness.

But why this malice, this hatred? India is loyal and she cannot do without England. It is also well known that Englaud cannot do without India. British commerce, British prowess, and even the British Empire have India for their basis. Look upon India at least kindly, if not affectionately; India, whose wealth has placed you at the head of all nations, who is the cause of your envied commercial prosperity, whose wheat and barley are feeding your millions. You are so great, so wealthy by milking the milch-cow, India; treat her well, treat her kindly.

Lord Curzon's just and impartial resolution on the O'Gara case has offended you, and your papers are full of your ravings. Is this manliness? O'Gara killed a punkha-puller by breaking his head with dumb-bells. He was tried and let off. Lord Curzon called for the papers of the case, studied the case minutely, and came to the conclusion that there had been miscarriage of justice in it. He has dismissed those officers whose indifference and apathy brought about this miscarriage of justice, and has laid down the procedure which should be followed in future in the investigation of such cases. Lord Curzon's resolution has made the Indian people glad and grateful and hopeful; but it has thrown the European community in India into a panic.

It appears that Lord Curzon has disturbed a veritable hornet's nest. But why? Is it true that the punishment of a white beast guilty of murder will shake the British Empire to its foundations? Is it true that nothing but a barbarous and cruel rule will maintain the permanency of the British Empire in India? Is this the feeling of brave Englishmen? Can a civilised nation be so much fond of brute force in the beginning of the twentieth century? Has European civilisation at last come to this?

There is, again, another aspect of this question, which led by our sense of duty we feel ourselves called upon to present to our rulers. There is a limit to everything. Is it advisable to overstep all limits in this case? Is it a wise policy to keep the chains of subjection eternally clanking in the hearing of the subject people, and create an ill-feeling in their mind? When the relation

between England and India is so intimate, when England and India cannot do without each other, does so much hatred, so much malice bode good to either?

Do you know the consequence of such a policy, the consequence, which blinded by malice, you cannot see? When a strong nation becomes accustomed to oppressing and ill-treating a weak nation, the national character of the oppressor is sure to deteriorate. The English nation is now at the head of all nations. Let it not ruin the foundations of humanity—the foundations of its own manliness by indulging in the luxury of trampling upon the Indian people.

Uriya Papers.

44. *The Uriya and Navasmvad* [Balasore] of the 20th June is sorry to notice a collision between a mail train and a goods train between Contai road and Dantun stations of the Orissa branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway on the 23rd of last *Jaista* at about 11-30 P.M., in consequence of which 200 passengers were wounded. The writer is informed that the driver of the mail train was rash and careless, as he neglected the danger signals that were given to stop his progress, and observes that a strict and thorough enquiry should be made with a view to prevent such accidents in future.

A collision on the Orissa branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

Uriya and Navasamvad, June 20th, 1900.

45. The *Samvadvahika* [Balasore] of the 21st June is glad to find that Babu Rajnarayan Das and others of Balasore have contributed Rs. 800 to the Famine Fund, and hopes that other zamindars and rich men of that district will contribute to that Fund according to their means. The writer observes that any—the smallest—contribution will be looked upon both as generous and sacred, for it is intended to save human life.

Contributions to the Famine Fund.

Samvadvahika, June 21st, 1900.

46. The *Sambalpur Hita shini* [Bamra] of the 20th June is of opinion that famine in India is mainly due to the poverty of the Indians, and this can only be removed by establishing manufactories and industrial arts in different parts of India. The Indians, if left to themselves, will never, for want of proper training and education, compete in these matters with other advanced nations. The writer, therefore, supports the proposal of the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta, which requests Government to collect money from the Indians in the shape of shares of a corporation, invest the same in some profitable undertaking, keep the management in its own hands for a certain number of years, train up the Indians to the proper limit and extent, and then retire from the management. In this way manufactories may be established in different parts of the country, giving work to a large number of men, women and children, who die, under the existing state of things, simply for want of money to purchase food.

Removal of India's poverty.

Sambalpur Hitaishini, June 20th, 1900.

Assam Papers.

47. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 30th June says that in spite of the standing order of the Director of Public Institution, Assam, that the grants-in-aid of those pathsalas, which are held in bad rooms and in the midst of filthy surroundings, should be discontinued, many pathsalas in Cachar are held in rooms which are worse than cattle sheds. The Sub-Inspector of Schools should keep an eye on the cleanliness of pathsala rooms and draw the attention of their teachers to the Director's order.

Condition of pathsala rooms in Cachar.

Silchar, June 20th, 1900.

A story told by the late Babu Bhudev Mukharji, Inspector of Schools, Bengal, of how a school room was once constructed by the sole efforts of teachers and pupils in a certain village in the Hooghly district may here be reproduced for the instruction of pathsala teachers in Assam. The house in which the Middle Vernacular School in a certain village in the Hooghly district was situated having become dilapidated, the pandit bethought himself as to the means of getting it reconstructed. He could count upon no outside help, as the village was a poor one. He invited the boys to work with him for one or two hours every day at brickmaking. So, in a short space of time, he had fifty to sixty thousand bricks made. With the assistance of the boys, he also procured the necessary wood from the jungle, and a small sum raised

by subscription supplied the other necessaries. A new school-house was thus constructed with a very small expenditure of money. School rooms can be kept clean if teachers and boys work for a few hours every Sunday to plaster the same with cowdung.

SILCHAR, June 30th, 1900.

Travelling allowance of Local Board Sub-Overseers in Assam.

48. The same paper says that though Mr. Cotton ordered Local Board Overseers in Assam to be paid a daily allowance of Rs. 2-4 if they travelled more than five miles from the station, he did nothing for the Local Board Sub-Overseers who get no allowance whatever the distance travelled by them from the Sadar station. Sub-Overseers in the Public Works Department receive an allowance of two annas per mile if they travel more than twenty miles a day. And an allowance at the same rate should be given to the five Local Board Sub-Overseers in Assam. The pay and horse allowance given to these hard-worked officers are, at present, extremely poor.

PARIDARSAK, July 1st, 1900.

A students' hostel wanted in Sylhet.

49. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 1st July says that the want of a students' hostel has been long felt in Sylhet. The writer has more than once drawn the attention of the authorities to the subject but in vain. Every school manager in Sylhet knows how the students are gradually losing their health as the result of living in filthy, insanitary hotels, and what risk they run of contracting immoral habits in lodging houses in which there are none to guide or look after them. The Government should, therefore, lose no time in establishing a hostel in Sylhet under the supervision of the Government School authorities. There was such a hostel once, but it is not known why it was abolished. It is extremly necessary for the good of the student community of Sylhet that a hostel should be again established.

PARIDARSAK.

The Sylhet Municipality.

50. The same paper has been astonished at the manner in which the appeals sub-committee of the Sylhet Municipality is disposing of objections against the new assessments. The objections of those really unable to pay the newly-assessed tax are being rejected, whilst the assessments of many who are well off are being remitted or reduced. Is it private influence or something else which is leading the sub-committee to do such injustice?

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 14th July, 1900.

J. B. K.—Reg. No. 2139C—77—18-7-1900.